[24th March 1934

Protest by Catholic Christians against the establishment of birth-control clinics.

* 852 Q.—Mr. M. S. SRESHTA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a representation from the Catholic Association of South Kanara protesting against the establishment of birth-control clinics as subversive of morals, dangerous to the interests and welfare of the State, and opposed to religion;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware that throughout the province the Catholic community has strongly protested against the establishment of birth-control clinics, and that protest public meetings have been held at Madras, Mangalore and elsewhere;

(*c*) whether there is any truth in the paragraph which appeared in the *Madras Mail* on the 14th September 1933 that Government is considering the question of establishing birth-control clinics;

(*d*) whether the Surgeon-General has been asked to report on the matter;

(*e*) if so, whether he has made a report; and

(*f*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place it on the table?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Protests have been received from the following Associations and bodies:—

(1) Catholic Association, South Kanara.
(2) Tuticorin Diocesan Catholic Association.
(3) The Madras Catholic Social Guild.
(4) Catholic Indian Association, Kumbakonam Branch.
(5) Public meeting of the Catholics of the City of Madras.
(6) Catholic Old Boys' Association, St. Xavier's College, Palamcottah.
(7) Catholics of Tanjore.
(8) South Indian Catholics in Matale, Ceylon.
(9) Nellore Diocesan Committee of the All-India Catholic League.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The Government do not propose to place the report on the table at this stage.

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Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Besides the Catholic Associations, may I know whether other associations such as the Kistna District Sanatanist Conference, the Andhra Provincial Women's Conference, the Municipal Corporation of Karachi and the Municipal Council of Tuticorin have passed resolutions against the introduction of birth-control clinics? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I cannot say I am aware of all these representations. I have just seen most of them in the newspapers."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the majority of opinion is in favour of introduction of birth-control? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" That is a question which cannot be answered by me. I am aware that there is strong opinion in the country in favour of birth-control."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the French Government have issued a notification prohibiting birth-control methods and propaganda? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" As far as I am aware, the French Government never officially recommended birth-control."

Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" May I know on what data the Government have come to the conclusion that there is considerable volume of opinion in favour of birth-control? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I am speaking from what I find in the newspapers. Opinion is divided; I have not stated that the majority of opinion is one way or the other."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Is the Hon. the Chief Minister aware of the fact that the Conference of Clerics which was recently held at Lambeth was in favour of birth-control methods? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I have seen the report."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" May I ask if the Hon. the Chief Minister is aware that if there is a large volume of opinion in favour of birth-control, there is equally a large volume of opinion—if not larger—against it? "

The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—" The Hon. Member is giving information; he may put only supplementary questions."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the All-India Women's Conference which met in 1932 and again in 1933, the All-India Social Conference and the All-India Medical Conference have passed resolutions urging the desirability of opening birth-control clinics in the State hospitals? "

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—" On a point of order, Sir. Is not the Hon. Member giving information? "

Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—"The question was given notice of in October 1933. Has the answer given to clause (c), reference to the date of the question or the date of the answer?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"It has reference to the date of the question."

Mr. M. S. Sreshta:—"May I know whether the Hon. the Chief Minister has arrived at any decision in the matter?"

The Hon the Raja of Bobbili:—"The matter is under consideration of the Government."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether the Hon. the Chief Minister has got on record the policy or opinion entertained in this regard by his predecessor in office?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"Except his speeches made on the floor of the House, I have no other information."

Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai:—"May I know if the Hon. Minister is aware that not only Catholics but also a large number of Protestant Christians are opposed to the introduction of birth-control clinics in the hospitals? Is the Hon. Minister aware that Bishop Waller . . ."

The Hon. the President:—"The Hon. Member may put a supplementary question but not give information."

Mr. G. Lakshmana Reddi:—"Is not self-control preferable to birth-control?"

Land Revenue Administration.

Prices of garden produce now and at the time of resettlement in Malabar.

* 853 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what the average price of garden produce such as coconuts and pepper were at the time the resettlement rates of land revenue were introduced in the district of Malabar; and

(b) what the prices are for the same products now?

A.—(a) & (b) At the resettlement of the plains taluks of Malabar, as at the previous settlement, garden land was defined as land which contained 10 or more bearing coconut palms, or the equivalent in areca or jack trees, to an acre. Thus pepper is not charged for as a garden crop.

The resettlement rates were introduced in three taluks in 1931–32 and in one other taluk in 1932–33; they are being introduced in the remaining four plains taluks this fasli.